THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) and (b) According to the provisions of the Article 243G of the Constitution, the State Governments may endow the Panchayats with powers and authority to plan and implement schemes for social justice and economic development. The State Governments are accordingly to consider the 29 subjects listed in the Eleventh Schedule for devolution to the Panchayats. The number of subjects devolved to the Panchayats varies across the States/UTs.

(c) The elected representative of the Panchayats are provided training and capacity building under various schemes of the State and Central Governments to exercise powers and functions assigned to the Panchayats.

Production in KG-D6

†2103. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the responsibility of production in Krishna- Godavari-D6 oil reserve has been entrusted to a joint enterprise;

(b) if so, names of partners in the Joint Venture alongwith the percentage of partnership of each partner, separately;

(c) whether the investments made till now in these oil reserves have been estimated finally; and

(d) if so, the total investments made so far?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURALI DEORA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The KG-D6 block has been awarded to a Consortium consisting of Reliance Industries Limited and Niko Resources Limited with 90% and 10% of Participating interest respectively under the first round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-I).

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Comptroller and Auditor General (C & AG) is conducting the audit of this Block for the years 2006-07 and 2007-08 with the option to take up the audit of earlier years.

Auction under NELP

2104. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how many blocks have been auctioned in the eight rounds of the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP);

(b) of these, in how many blocks oil and gas have been discovered and the block-wise estimates; and

(c) of these, in how many blocks exploration has started?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURALI DEORA): (a) Under the eighth bid round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VIII), 70 blocks were offered. 76 bids have been received for 36 blocks. The evaluation of bids is underway.

(b) So far, 73 discoveries have been made in 21 blocks under NELP regime. An in-place reserve of 642 million tonnes of oil and oil equivalent gas has been established so far from these discoveries. The details of the block wise estimates are available with Director General, Directorate General of Hydrocarbons.

(c) Exploration works have been carried out in 179 blocks, out of 203 blocks awarded under NELP.

Fall in profit of ONGC

2105. SHRI N.K. SINGH:
SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has reported a huge drop in its net profit for the first half of the ongoing fiscal;

(b) if so, the details thereof and factors responsible for fall in net profit of ONGC;

(c) whether the sectors in which ONGC is facing fall in net profit would be checked; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURALI DEORA): (a) and (b) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC)'s net profit has dropped by 13% from Rs.11,445 crore in first half (H1) 2008-2009 to Rs.9,938 crore in H1, 2009-10. The fall in net profit of ONGC in H1 2009-10 compared to H1 2008-09 is mainly due to:-

(i) Reduction in sales revenue on account of lower selling price due to steep fall in international prices of crude oil as well as reduced sales quantity due to less production of crude oil.

(ii) Steep fall in prices of Value Added Products as these are also linked to international prices of crude oil.

(iii) Increase in average exchange rate of Indian Rupees *vis-a-vis* US Dollar.

(iv) Increase in expenditure on dry wells.

(c) and (d) All out effort is being made to augment crude oil production by implementing Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) and Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) in various fields of ONGC as well as technology induction/absorption/adoption to enhance oil/gas production. ONGC is also taking up some structural changes and creation of well-coordinated Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDT) to ensure better coordination in acquisition, processing, interpretation and drilling activities.